

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

Claims 3, 4, 10 and 15 are currently being cancelled.

Claims 1, 5, 11, 14 and 16-21 are currently being amended.

Claims 23-41 are currently being added.

This amendment adds, cancels and amends claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 5-9, 11-14 and 16-41 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 3 and 5. By way of this amendment and reply, the features of objected to (and now canceled) claim 3 have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 1, and thus claim 1 is now in allowable form based on the comments made in the Office Action with respect to claim 3. Claims 6-9, 11-13 and 21 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 1, and thus those claims are also now in allowable form. Claim 5 has been amended to place that claim in independent form to include the features of its base claim and any intervening claims, and thus claim 5 is now in allowable form based on the comments made in the Office Action with respect to that claim. New claims 23-30 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 5, and thus those claims are also believed to be in allowable form. Also, the features of objected to claim 3 have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 14, and thus claim 14 is now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 3. Claims 17, 18 and 22 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 14, and thus those claims are also believed to be in allowable form. Still further, the features of objected to claim 5 have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 16, and thus claim 16 is

now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 5. New claims 31-33 depend either directly or indirectly from claim 16, and thus those claims are also believed to be in allowable form. Also, the features of objected to claim 3 have been incorporated into presently pending independent claim 19, and thus claim 19 is now believed to be in condition for allowance based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claim 3. Claim 20 now depends from claim 19, and thus claim 19 is also believed to be in allowable form. New independent claim 34 includes the features of previously pending claim 19, as well as the features of objected to claims 3 and 5, and thus claim 34 is believed to be in allowable form based on the indications made in the Office Action with respect to claims 3 and 5. Furthermore, claim 35 depends from claim 34, and thus that claim is also believed to be in allowable form.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1, 4, 10, 16, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,996,021 to Civanlar et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,351,465 to Han; and claims 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 18, 21 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Civanlar et al. in view of Han and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,185,213 to Katsube et al. Due to the amendments made to these claims under rejection such that presently pending independent claims 1, 5, 14, 16, 19 and 34 include the features of at least one of the ‘objected to’ claims 3 and 5, these rejections are now believed to be moot.

New Claims:

New claims 23-41 have been added to recite different features of the present invention that are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. As discussed above, claims 22-35 are believed to be in allowable form due to their dependency on an allowable independent claim or due to the incorporation of ‘objected to’ features in new independent claim 34.

New independent claims 36-41 include, among other things, the following features: “assigning operation values obtained by carrying out a prescribed operation for possible residue values starting from 0” and “selecting one of said plurality of routers which is assigned with an operation value obtained by carrying out the prescribed operation for a residue value” (see page 13, lines 10-14, and page 20, line 33 – page 21, line 2 of the

specification). In that regard, new independent claims 36-41 respectively correspond to presently pending independent claims 1, 5, 14, 16, 19, 34, but whereby these new independent claims 36-41 include the following features: "assigning possible residue values starting from 0" and "selecting one of said plurality of routers which is assigned with a residue value".

New independent claims 36-41 are also believed to be in condition for allowance due to the features recited in these claims not be disclosed, taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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